

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEAE-00 IO-13 SR-02 ORM-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 MC-02 AID-20 IGA-02

OMB-01 SY-10 USSS-00 RSR-01 /157 W

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P 121220Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7348

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 KARACHI 1203

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP PFOR, PK, IN, BG, UK, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BHUTTO DEPARTS ON FIRST LEG OF VISIT TO US

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESIDENT BHUTTO, PRIOR HIS 0900
JULY 12 DEPARTURE FROM KARACHI FOR ROME, HIS VISIT TO
THE U.S. AND A VISIT TO THE UK MET THE PRESS EVENING OF
JULY 11. BHUTTO READ PREPARED STATEMENT TO NEWSMEN
DEALING WITH HIS VISIT TO THE US, THE NEED FOR JUST,
HONORABLE AND LASTING PEACE IN SUBCONTINENT AND OTHER
TOPICS. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, BHUTTO ALSO
ANNOUNCED TALKS TO BE HELD WITH INDIA JULY 24, EXPRESSED
BELIEF HIS VISIT TO US WILL STRENGTHEN AND CONSOLIDATE
US-PAKISTAN RELATIONS, REITERATED GOP'S CONDITIONS FOR
RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH, AUTHORIZED REPATRIATION 5,000
BENGALIS UNDER AGEIS UNHCR, AND ANNOUNCED HE WOULD
PAY 2-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO UK JULY 22. END SUMMARY
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1. VISIT TO THE US: IN PREPARED STATEMENT, PRESIDENT SAID HE PLANNED EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON ON ISSUES OF BILATERAL INTEREST AND REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY UNDER CONDITIONS ENSURING SOVEREIGN EQUALITY OF ALL STATES OF REGION AND SAFEGUARDING THEM AGAINST THREAT OF DOMINATION AND HEGEMONY. ASKED IF RESUMPTION OF US ARM SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN WOULD BE DISCUSSED, PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY REPLIED "WE WILL DISCUSS EVERYTHING AFFECTING PAKISTAN-US RELATIONS. I DON'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING MORE AT THIS STAGE." BHUTTO DENIED THAT JULY 10 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BANGLADESH RECOGNITION RESOLUTION (ISLAMABAD 5550) HAD ANY BEARING ON HIS VISIT TO THE US AND DESCRIBED IT RATHER AS MEANINGFUL COUNTER-INITIATIVE TO THE INDIAN-BANGLADESH PROPOSALS OF APRIL 17. ACCORDING TO BHUTTO, VISIT TO US WILL PROMOTE ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY OF BILATERALISM, I.E. FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL THREE MAJOR POWERS IN SPLITE OF ANY DIFFERENCES THAT MAY EXIST AMONG THEM. DESCRIBING PAKISTAN'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE US AS WARM AND FRIENDLY, PRESIDENT EXPRESSED BELIEF FORTHCOMING TALKS WILL SERVE TO STRENGTHEN AND CONSOLIDATE US-PAKISTAN RELATIONSHIPS.

2. TALKS WITH INDIA AND BANGLADESH RECOGNITION: PRESIDENT SAID PAKISTAN HAD AGREED TO HOLD OFFICIAL-LEVEL TALKS WITH INDIA JULY 24, AND THAT VENUE WOULD BE IN PAKISTAN. BHUTTO NOTED HE HIMSELF WOULD BE ABROAD AT THIS TIME AND NOT AVAILABLE DURING TALKS. REFERRING TO PRESS REPORTS OF GOI OFFICIAL P.N. HASKAR'S STATEMENT THAT INDO-PAKISTAN TALKS WOULD BE HELD ON BASIS OF APRIL 17 INDO-BANGLADESH OFFER, BHUTTO SAID HAKSAR WAS ENTITLED TO HIS VIEWS, BUT PAKISTAN COULD NOT ACCEPT A PRINCIPLE (THREE WAY EXCHANGE OF POW'S, BENGALLEES AND BIHARIS) WHICH IT DID NOT UNDERSTAND THOROUGHLY, AND HAD ITS OWN VIEWPOINT ON THIS ISSUE. GOP WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES ANY MATTER WHICH GOI WANTED TO RAISE IN THE DISCUSSIONS. DESCRIBING INDIAN-BANGLADESH APRIL 17TH OFFER AS ONE WHICH DID NOT TURN OUT UNCLASSIFIED

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TO BE AS BIG AS IT APPEARED, BHUTTO DESCRIBED JULY 10 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION SANCTIONING RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH WHEN IN THE SUPREME NATIONAL INTEREST AS A MORE SOLID AND GENUINE COUNTER-INITIATIVE TO UNFREEZE THE STALEMATE. BHUTTO SAID THAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BD RESOLUTION WAS CONCRETE DEMONSTRATION OF PAKISTAN'S SINCERITY IN ITS QUEST FOR A JUST PEACE, AND ITS FEARLESS FACING OF OBJECTIVE REALITIES.

NONETHELESS, INITIAL PREREQUISITES TO NORMALIZATION OF SITUATION IN SUBCONTINENT WERE RELEASE AND REPATRIATION OF ALL PAKISTAN POW'S AND ABANDONEMENT OF THE IDEA OF WAR CRIME TRIALS. ANNOUNCED GOP DECISION TO AUTHORIZE PRIORITY REPATRIATION 5,000 BENGALLEES UNDER AEGIS UNHCR WITHOUT INSISTING ON PRIOR ASSURANCE OF RECIPROCITY. (DETAILS BEING REPORTED BY EMBASSY ISLAMABAD IN SEPTTEL)

3. VISIT TO UK: PRESIDENT ALSO ANNOUNCED HE HAD ACCEPTED AN INVITATION EXTENDED EARLIER BY BRITISH PM HEATH TO PAY 2-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO UK JULY 22 BECAUSE BRITISH GOVERNMENT NOW HAD NO INTENTION OF ENACTING THE IMMIGRATION BILL WITH RETROSPECTIVE EFFECT.

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P 121220Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7349

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

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4. OTHER TOPICS: ADDRESSING OTHER QUESTIONS FROM REPORTERS BHUTTO REPORTEDLY SAID RESUMPTION OF AID FROM THE CONSORTIUM COUNTRIES WAS "NOW NO PROBLEM"

ADDING "I THINK IT IS ALL RIGHT NOW". IN PREPARED
STATEMENT BHUTTO CRITICIZED OPPOSITION PARTIES FOR
THEIR WALKING OUT AT JULY 9 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SESSION AS INDICATING OPPOSITION HAD NOTHING TO SAY
WHICH WOULD HAVE STOOD THE TEST OF REASON. BHUTTO
WARNED OPPOSITION THAT IF THEY TRIED TO START TROUBLE
WHILE HE ABSENT ABROAD, GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY PREPARED
TO MEET ANY SITUATION. BHUTTO CONGRATULATED PAKISTAN
PEOPLE'S PARTY ON ITS SUCCESSES IN RECENT SENATE ELECTIONS
(ISLAMABAD 5576) AND ASSURED PEOPLE GOVERNMENT WILL DO ALL
IT CAN TO ALLEVIATE SUFFERING CAUSED BY RECENT HEAVY RAINS
AND CONSEQUENT FLOODING IN SEVERAL AREAS OF PAKISTAN.
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TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, PK, IN, BG, UK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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